

GOLDEN ~
~ JUBILEE

and HISTORY of
Our Lady of Victories Parish
Esterhazy, Saskatchewan



1906

JUNE 11

1956

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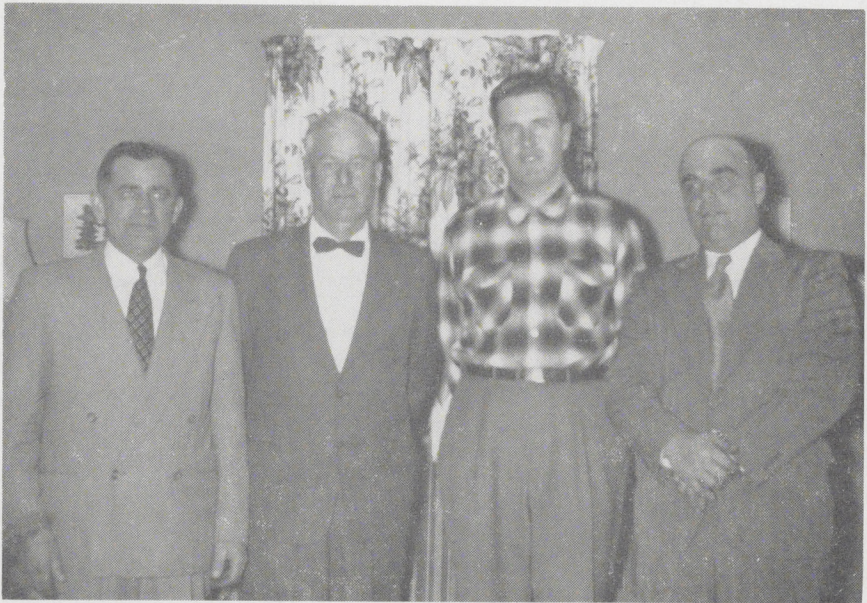
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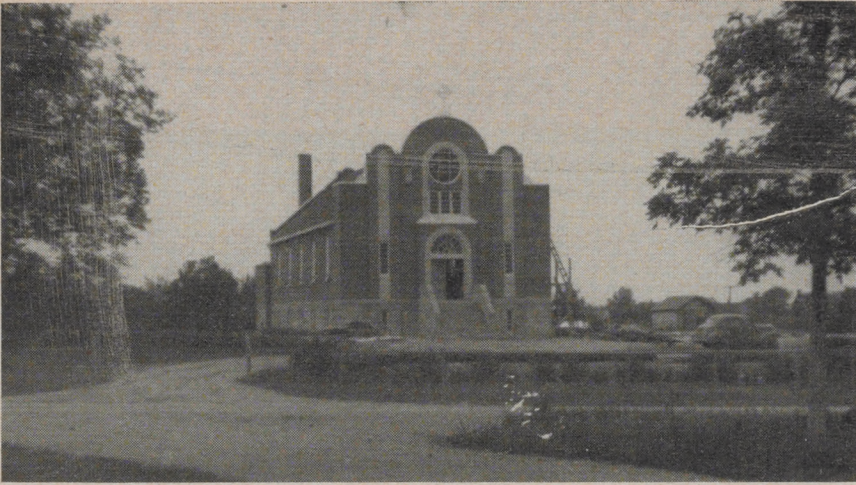
Our Lady of Victories Parish

1906 - 1956



Esterhazy Village Council

Left to right: Joseph Chomos, John Pinder, Thomas Gracey, Joseph Ficek



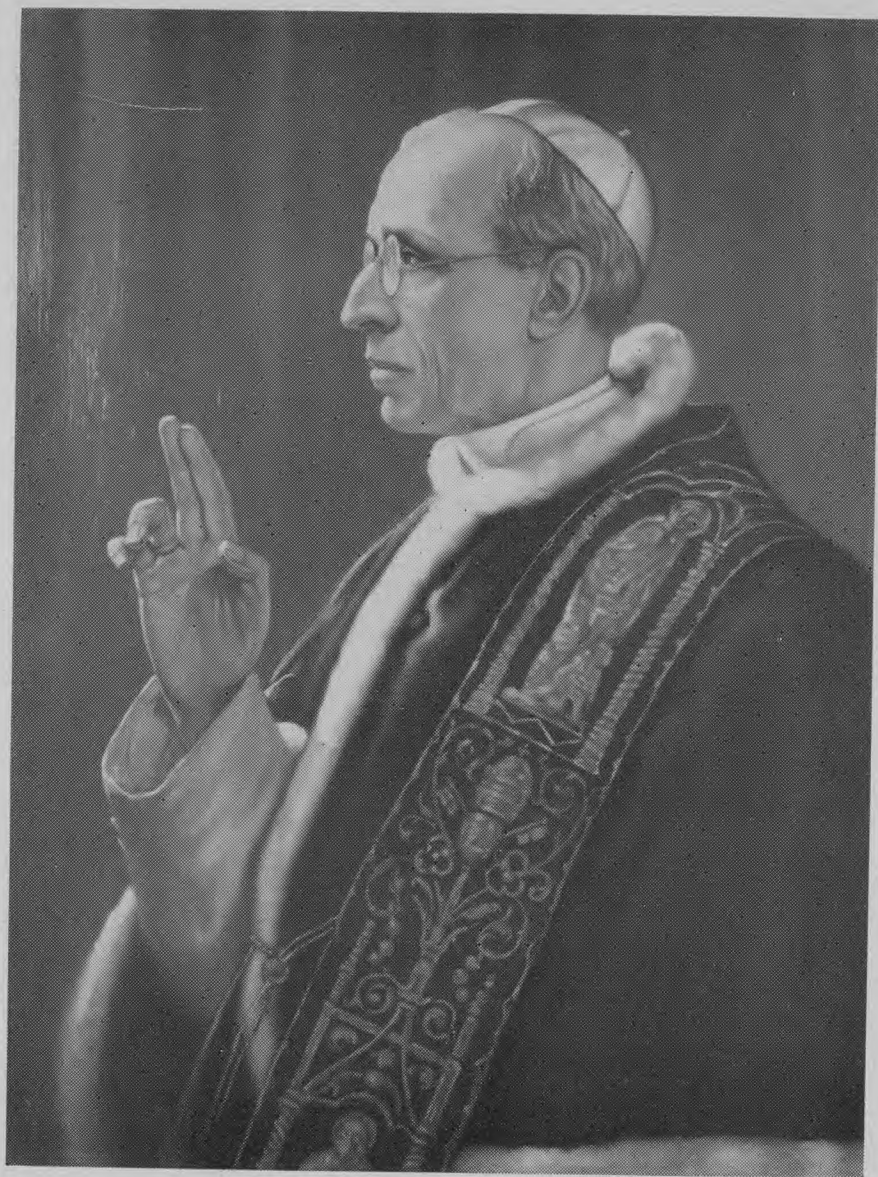
FOREWORD

May we dedicate this commemoration to the clergy and the families, who 70 years ago migrated to Western Canada, and to recall to mind those who founded Our Lady of Victories Parish and built a community in which to-day we enjoy freedom to worship according to God's Holy Will.

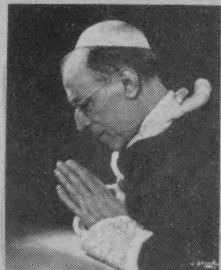
The hardships are told and retold of the early pioneers who left their native land and other parts of Canada and the United States to build a community out of the virgin land that God's hand had created. They did it with loving tears and sweat that all mingled together to give us what we hold dear and greatly appreciate to-day. To all of those loyal sons and daughters we extend our prayers and especially to those who have departed this world that their souls may rest in peace with God whom they toiled for:—**HIS GREATER HONOUR AND GLORY.**

Yours,

Rev. J. J. Burns
and Trustees.



His Holiness, Pope Pius XII



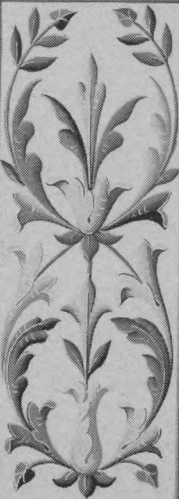
ost Holy Father

Reverend Father
John J. Burns

Pastor of the Parish of Our Lady,
of Victories, Esterhazy, Saskat-
chewan, on the occasion of the
50th Anniversary of its foundation
June 11, 1956, humbly prostrate at
the feet of Your Holiness begs a
Special Apostolic Blessing for
himself and his Parishioners ~

*Spemus Romanorum benignos amantibus
Vobis ex Audibus Petramus in 27 Feb 1956*

+ Sidney Verini
Archiep. Advance



Chancery Office
2107 Garnet Street

ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA

Regina, Sask.,
April 6th, 1956.

To the Pastor and Parishioners
of Our Lady of Victories Parish,
Esterhazy, Sask.

Dearly Beloved In Christ:

The fiftieth anniversary of the founding of a parish in Western Canada is an event of no mean importance and significance. It takes one back to a time when our western plains were sparsely populated and when immigration was in its infancy. It was a time of deprivation, hardships and sacrifice but also when mutual charity and cooperation prevailed.

It is indeed a tribute to the early settlers that their first concern on coming to Saskatchewan was to provide a spiritual home for themselves and their children. To have an altar and a priest, God in their midst, meant that they were no longer strangers in a foreign land.

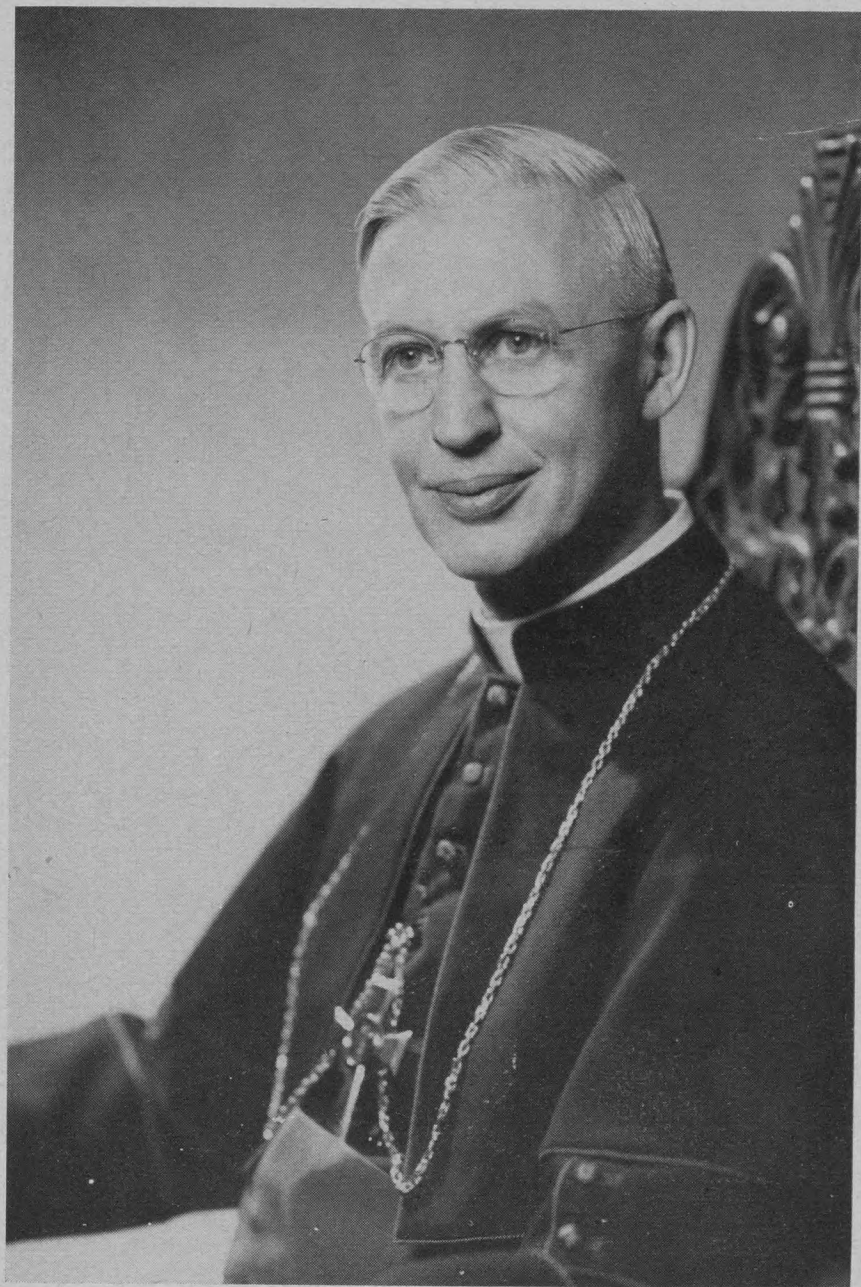
Those who enjoyed the spiritual benefits of to-day's flourishing parish owe a deep debt of gratitude to the small numbers of priests and people who laid the foundations so well. Many of this group are no longer with you but their memories and their spirit of faith remain.

On this occasion I wish to extend my congratulations to Father Burns, The Committee, and the members of Our Lady of Victories Parish who have made this day memorable. It is a great day. May it also be a day of blessings for all who will have the happiness of sharing in its celebration.

Yours very sincerely in Christ,

✠ M. C. O'Neill,

Archbishop of Regina.



Most Reverend M. C. O'Neill, D.D., Archbishop of Regina



His Grace, Archbishop Giovanni Panico, Apostolic Delegate to Canada



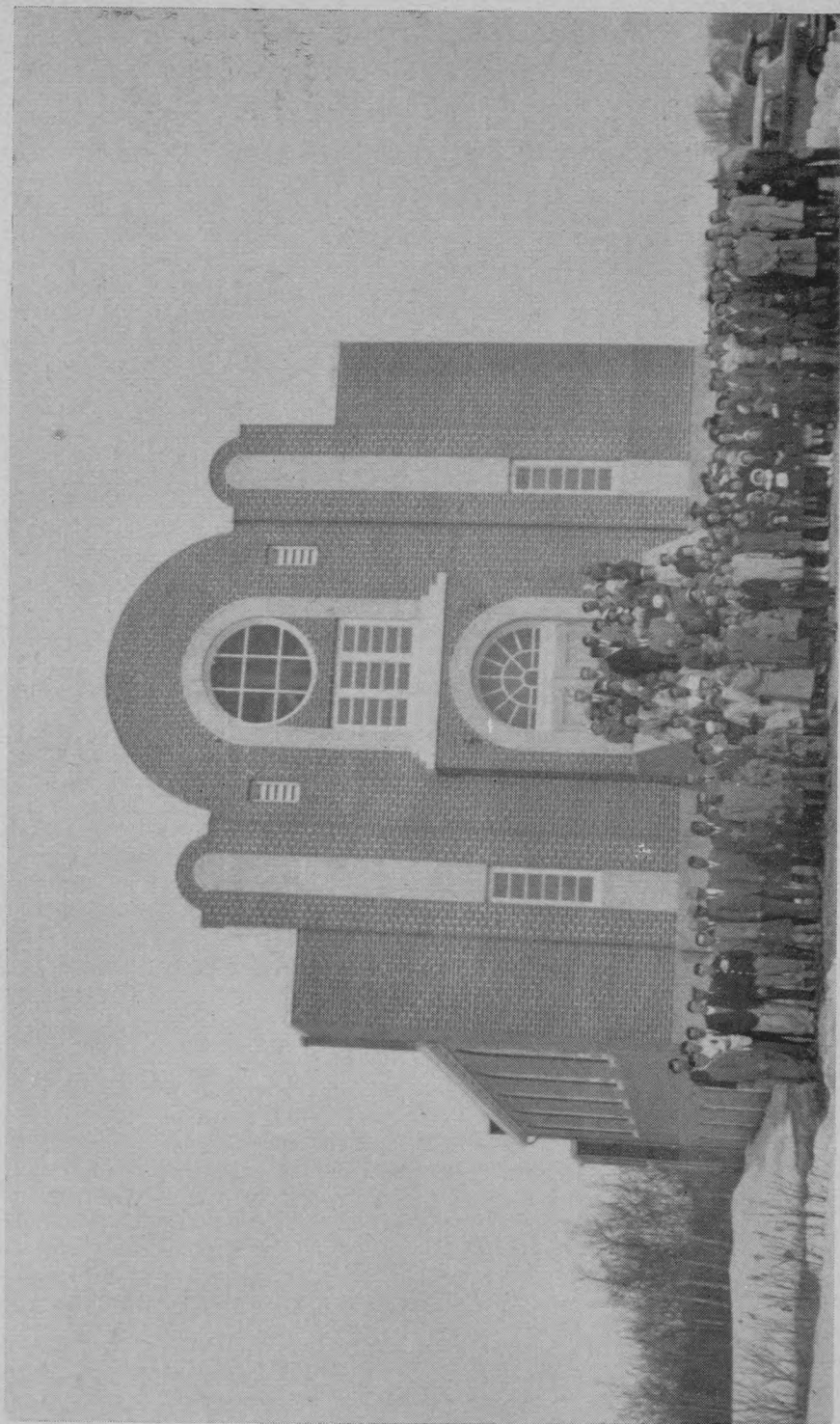
Rev. J. J. Burns
 John Kacsmar (chairman), Emil Tochor, Steve Hido, Frank Swejda, John Dlouhy
 Frank Chomos
 Missing: Stephen Bartok, Frank Tochor and Arthur Helmle

On this happy occasion, the Golden Jubilee of the founding of Our Lady of Victories Parish, I would like, on behalf of the board of trustees and the parishioners, to convey sincere thanks to the pastors and laymen and women who have devoted so much time to the interests of this parish. A special mention is in place to past trustees of long service, namely, Mr. John S. Lucas, Mr. George Patrick, and Mr. D. A. MacKenzie, as well as others and the present board of trustees as these gentlemen were instrumental in building the building of our present Church.

I would like also to thank a faithful servant in Mr. Frank Chomos, our devoted organist for the past thirteen years.

On behalf of our present pastor and board of trustees, it is fitting to express our grateful thanks to all the professional and independent business men and firms for their sincere congratulations and contributions which have helped to make this book of history of the parish possible.

John C. Kacsmar—Chairman.



April 1956

CHAPTER ONE

Early Settlers and Settlement

In 1886 Count Esterhazy from Hungary brought with himself a colony of Hungarians, Bohemians and Slavs, who settled about 4 miles south of the present Village of Esterhazy, on lands since proved second to none for agriculture in the Province of Saskatchewan.

Notwithstanding the numberless trials incidental to pioneer life, the long and tedious trips to Whitewood, then the nearest market point, the severity of the winters, and so forth, the settlers kept courage and good heart.

After 1890 prosperity commenced to crown the efforts of these hardy pioneers; but it was not till 1902 that a complete change came with the building of Kirkella branch of the C.P.R. from Virden, Manitoba via Bulyea, Sask., to Regina. After much serious discussion, the village of Esterhazy was located on 28-19-1-W2, due principally to the untiring efforts of Father Woodcutter, then Parish priest at Kapasvar. It was then named Esterhazy after Count Esterhazy who founded the Hungarian colony to the south of the town. Count Esterhazy did not remain in Canada but returned to his native land.

In 1903, while the snow still covered the ground, came Messrs Wrightson and Flock to start a general store, followed by Mr. J. J. Sullivan who opened a general store in the fall of the same year on the second surveyed lot. Mr. Frank L'Heureux who bought the first surveyed lot in town laid the foundation of the Central Hotel, while Mr. T. T. Lake officially opened the C.P.R. station as its first agent. It will be remembered by many that a boat was used as transportation from the C.P.R. station to the Hotel and town proper.

The early pioneers went to Mass and received the consolations of Holy Mother the Church at Kapasvar, their mother church in this new land. The church was administrated from St. Boniface, Manitoba, under the able direction of Archbishop Tache, O.M.I., who died June 22nd, 1894. The following year his arduous tasks were taken up by Archbishop A. Langevin, O.M.I. Thanks also of the early pioneers go out to the Oblates of Lebreton who from time to time sent missionaries to encourage and console them, namely, Father DeCorby and Father Paige.

South of the present church before 1906, the first Masses were said in a log hut built by Father Woodcutter. They were not frequent, but said on the cold days of winter for those close at hand.



Archbishop Tache (——-1894)



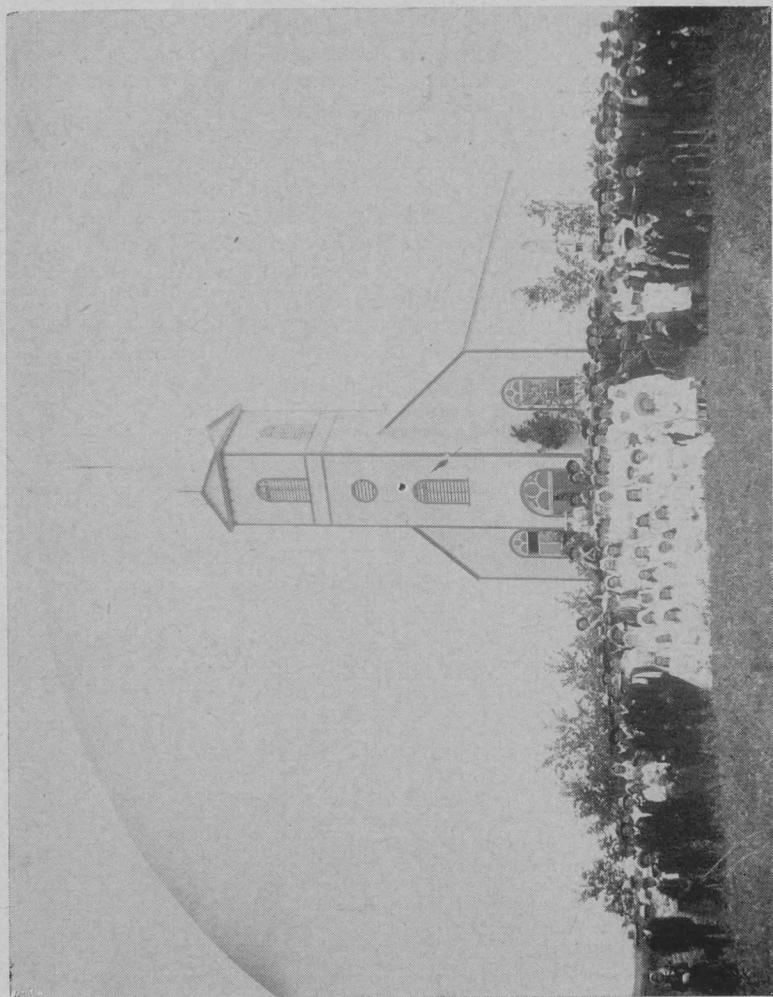
Archbishop Langevin (1895-1911)



Archbishop Matheiu (1911-1939)



Archbishop McGuigan (1930-1935)



Confirmation June 14th 1906—Archbishop A. Langevin, O.M.I.
Parish Priest—Rev. A. Geritsma

CHAPTER TWO

The First Year

In the spring of 1905 a meeting was called by Father Woodcutter and his assistant, Father J. Pirot, in Mr. J. J. Sullivan's store to discuss the possibilities of erecting a parish and a church in Esterhazy. The meeting was so successful that the church was started in July 1905 and finished in September of the same year.

On June 13th, 1906 His Grace, Archbishop Adelare Langevin, O.M.I. canonically erected the parish and then blessed the church under the patronage of "Our Lady of Victories"; but unofficially it was called "St. Mary's" till 1942. Reverend A. Gerritsma was named the first parish priest of the newly erected parish. So to Fathers Woodcutter, J. Pirot and A. Gerritsma and to the first trustees, namely, Messrs George Hanis, Lesco Lucas, J. J. Sullivan, Frank L'Heureux, John O'Donahue and Vaclav Dlouhy, we owe a debt of deep gratitude and may, through this Jubilee History, their names remain with us at all times. Last but not least we thank all those who contributed in any way to the building and maintenance of the new parish.

June 14th, 1906 was also a memorable day as the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered to the following:—

George Gregga	Laddie Dlouhy	George Patrick
Mathieu Dorey	Jerry Roberge	Joseph Lomenda
Ludvic Tochor	John Houben	Anthony Hruska
Stephen Hanis	Jacob Stack	Frank Fitzsimmons
Carl Stack	Henry Stack	Leontine Roberge
Marie Dorey	Anna Houben	Elizabeth Tochor
Marie Fiala	Martha Kopas	Marie Lomenda
Anne Urzada	Susan Hanis	Florence Fitzsimmons
Anne Lucas	Marie Urzada	Catherine Strecker
Anne Kast	Marie Kopas	Marie Martinowski
Marie Hanis	Eleanor Stack	Amanda Fitzsimmons
Veronica Patrick	Marie Havelick	
Christine Houben	Elizabeth Lucas	

An Important record worthy of printing is that of the First Holy Communion Class on June 3rd 1906:—

Marie Lomenda	Joseph Lomenda	Leontine Roberge
Laddie Dlouhy	Elizabeth Tochor	Jerry Roberge
George Gregga	Eleanor Stack	Florence Fitzsimmons
Aloysius Tochor	Henry Stack	Mabel Fitzsimmons
Jacob Stack	Francis Fitzsimmons	

The first family who settled in this country and belonged to the newly erected parish was the family of Mr. and Mrs Wenceslaus Lomenda. They came to Winnipeg from Czecko-Slovakia in the

fall of 1890 and after spending the winter there, they came in the spring of 1891 to the district. We are very fortunate in having their photograph and it may be seen on this page.

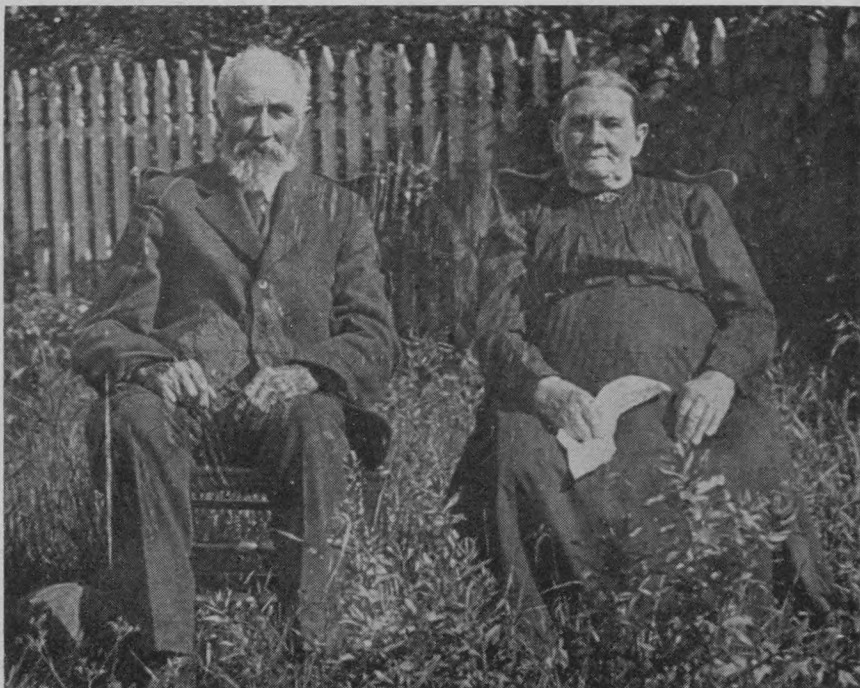
The first baptism in the parish records is that of Joseph Lomenda, the son of Joseph Lomenda and Marie Knourek, who was baptized on the 7th of January 1906. The first baptism registered after the canonical erection of the parish is that of Francis Knezacek, the son of Laddie Knezacek and Rose Kubik, on July 1st, 1906.

The first Marriage registered was on July 13th, 1906 when Anthony Urzada, the son of Francis Urzada and Marie Weselak, married Johanna Bryks, the daughter of John and Annie Strecker. This marriage took place in the home of Wenceslaus Martinowski in Grove Park. The first marriage in the new church was that of Charles Schiminoski and Elizabeth Klimm on August 22nd, 1906.

The first funeral was that of Wenceslaus Glazor, 28 years of age, on August 28th 1906. The burial took place in the recently blessed St. Mary's Cemetery.

The summary for this year 1906 reads as:—

Baptisms 23; First Holy Communions 14; Confirmations 37; Marriages 3; Burials 4.



Mr. and Mrs. Wenceslaus Lomenda

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CHAPTER THREE

Two World Wars

(1907-1939)



Father Pirot

During these intervening years the following pastors carried on faithfully and with great progress the spiritual and material welfare of the parish:—

Rev. A. Gerritsma	Jan. 1905 to Dec. 1907
Rev. J. Vorst	Jan. 1908 to Dec 1908
	Jun. 1912 to Sept. 1912
	Administrator 1914-1919
Rev. F. Schulte	Jan. 1909 to Feb. 1909
Rev. J. Reindl	Mar. 1909 to Dec. 1911
Rev. P. Casgrain	Jan. 1912 to June 1912
Rev. J. Pirot	Sept. 1912 to Sept. 1914
	Sept. 1919 to Sept. 1942

Three Archbishops held the See in Regina during this era and visited the parish on 6 occasions.

Most Reverend O. E. Mathieu	1912 and 1926
Most Reverend C. J. McGuigan	1931 and 1934
Most Reverend P. J. Monahan	1936 and 1939

On these pastoral visits a Total of 372 children were confirmed; and of these 20 were converts.

The first world war in 1914-1918 was the first event to break the tranquility of the parish and many of the young men were called to active service in His Majesty's Forces. With them went their pastor Rev. J. Pirot. Father spent 5 years in the forces in Europe as chaplain and he was known for the great work he did instructing the Catholic boys in the fundamentals of their faith as well as their moral obligations. Father was a real father to them

all and many found in him a deep and lasting friend. During father's absence Father Vorst administered the parish.

Thanks to Almighty God who watched over father and the boys and for many a mothers' prayer, all came home to their loved ones and friends. Father Pirot, however, had been seriously gassed and this bothered Father a great deal from time to time which made his parish work so often very hard. His great missionary spirit carried him on and he worked under this difficulty for 23 years until his retirement in 1942.

The next ten years after the signing of the peace treaty saw great prosperity in Western Canada and the community in Esterhazy made great strides, especially in the methods of mixed farming. Tractors, cars and modern machinery made work less arduous and the time of pioneering was rapidly declining.

However, this prosperity was short-lived as 1929 saw the devastating crash on the exchanges of the world, and at the same time drought raised its ugly head. This being a mixed-farming district, on rolling park land, it did not suffer depression in comparison to the prairies to our west. The great tree belt stopped the dry winds and dust was little seen, except that which filled the air from the prairies. Thus the period of recovery was not as long as in other parts of the province.

To end this time of hardship due to the drought years, there arose rumors of a second world war on the horizon. It finally broke in the early fall of 1939. Immediately many of our young men, and later our young women, responded to our country's call and joined the armed forces. The first spring of the war saw many of them in the front lines in Europe. A friend that will be remembered by the soldiers from our district is none other than Happy Young, a chinese restaurant owner in the village, who ran the Overseas Club. Happy kept the boys well supplied with parcels and this took many hours of his time. As a token of their gratitude, the boys had Happy made an honorary member of the Legion in Esterhazy. THANKS HAPPY.

May we here remember these loyal sons and daughters—especially HARRY TOCHOR, who gave his life—who gave the best years of their lives that we might live in a land free from fear and want and in a community freely practising our faith.

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F.O. Bernaski L.	Pte. Lipinski A.	L.A.C. Kacsmar M. P.
A. T2 Dorey R. R.	Pte. Lovasz P.	Gnr. Katrensky J. G.
Cpl. Duke L.	Cpl. Lucas S. S.	L.A.C. Kenechny F.
Sqm. Fieck A.	Gnr. Bartok Wm.	Gnr. Lipinski G.
Sgt Gregga A. G.	L.A.C. Brunyansky A.	Pte. Lomenda V.
L.A.W. Hanis K. E.	Trp. Dorey A. A.	Gnr. Lucas S. G.
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Pte. Fedorski J. E.	Gnr. Stadnyk J.	Gnr. Toth L. G.
O.S. Gregga E. J.	Trp. Swejda V.	Pte. Urban F.
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Pte. Hrab J. G. R.	Pte. Toth M.	A. W. Mooney M. M.
Gnr. Kacsma G.	Pte. Urban A.	Pte. Morrison M.
Pte. Katrensky A.	Pte. Urzada W. J.	DR. Muzylouski S. L.
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Cpl. Lipinski J.	Cpl. Mooney F. J.	Pte. Neyedely J. S.
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Pte. Mann A.	L.A.C. Neuman Alf.	Pte. Slobozian J.
Pte. Mann W.	Sgt. Neuman A. G. D.	Cpl. Swejda S. J.
Sgt. Morrison R.	Gnr. Patrick Wm.	Cpl. Terry R. P.
Pte. Morrison D.	L.A.C. Rocen J.	Sgt. Tochor J.
Pte. Nagy A.	L.A.C. Sikora Wm.	Pte. Tochor E.
Sqm. Neuman E.	Gnr. Stadnyk Wm.	A.W. Toth A. M.
L.A.C. Nicholson J.	M.M. Terry L. M.	Sgt. Urzada G.
L.A.W. Pilchak E. M.	L.A.W. Terry C. E.	A.S.O. Walsh B. J.
Sqm. Schafer R.	Pte Tochor H.	



St. Anthony's Hospital

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CHAPTER FOUR

1940 - The Grey Nuns Sisters of Pembroke

The hospital of St. Anthony was established in the year 1940 by His Grace Archbishop Monahan D.D., under the pontificate of His Holiness Pope Pius XII and in the reign of King George VI.

In 1936 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee at the parish of Kapasvar, His Grace made a visit to the district and realizing the great need of a sisters' hospital, His Grace discussed the matter with the parish priests and citizens, including the board of trade of the village of Esterhazy. Interest in the project was at once fostered in the district.

The board of trade undertook to solicit the support of the village council and the councils of the surrounding municipalities. Delegates attended the meeting of the various councils and great enthusiasm was very evident. The Council of the Municipality of Fertile Belt was the first to go on record and their support found expression in the words, "That this council views with favor the establishment of a hospital within the boundaries of the municipality". At the same time the municipalities of Langenburg, Grayson and Spy Hill warmly endorsed the project, as did likewise the council of the Village of Esterhazy.

His Grace then set about to interest an order of Religious Sisters in establishing a hospital in the district. This was by no means an easy task, because from many parts of Canada the cry was then going forth from communities similarly interested. To build hospitals involved substantial outlays of capital, and besides, the demand for sisters was so great that it was difficult to spare them from the various orders.

Saskatchewan had just experienced a succession of difficult years, and no Motherhouse of any community of sisters was particularly anxious to commit the order to an investment of several thousands of dollars in the province. His Grace worked ceaselessly, wrote many letters of entreaty to the sisters.

At Esterhazy, under the direction of the Board of Trade, committees were set up to obtain volunteer assistance in the way of labour. On the occasion of His Grace's visit in 1939 for confirmation in the parish, he received definite assurance of support from many sections of the community. Promises of actual cash grants were forthcoming from Villages and the Municipalities.

With perseverance, His Grace solicited the interest of more than one order of religious sisters, and his letter to the people of Esterhazy exhorted them to pray for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and the Saints. Said His Grace in one letter: "Good St. Anthony must come to our assistance".

In January 1940 His Grace paid a personal visit to the Motherhouse of the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception at Pembroke, Ontario. When he returned to the west, His Grace was able

to say to the people of Esterhazy, "There is hope; persevere in Prayer". A few weeks passed, and then the long prayed for word was received that a hospital would be built in Esterhazy. The prayers of all were answered.

On a day of sunshine early in June, His Grace arrived in company with Mr. S. Storey, an architect from Regina. The site, first chosen by His Grace and also preferred by the sisters who visited the place and the people of Esterhazy, was inspected and found very satisfactory. This site, ideally located on a hill near Our Lady of Victories Church, overlooks the village, and to the south, east and west affords a broad view of beautiful undulating country that blends in the distance in the blue hills of the majestic Qu'Apelle Valley.

The greater part of the property was owned by Mr. and Mrs. James Martinowski, and the remainder by Theodore Schafer, all pioneers of the district. These benevolent people generously donated their property to the sisters. Mr. Schafer unfortunately did not live to see the great work completed; but Mr. and Mrs. James Martinowski were present to see His Grace bless the hospital upon its completion.

Early in July the contract for the construction of the hospital was let to Messrs Wilson and Wilson, contractors from Regina, the architects being Messrs Van Egmond and Storey of Regina.

Through volunteer labour by the people of the village and district, the grounds were levelled, the large basement was excavated, and several hundreds of loads of gravel were drawn to the site. Then, the contractors proceeded with the erection of the building with great vigor, and before long the structure lent its beauty to the village. Autumn was fast closing in when the finishing touches were added to the noble edifice.

On the 6th of November, Sister Dorothea, as superior, with Sister St. Bride and Sister Mary Edwardine, arrived at the hospital to make final arrangements for the official opening of the hospital. They finally slipped in very quietly as the first wintery days of winter made its appearance. Thus did the Grey Nuns Sisters of Immaculate Conception enter the district of Esterhazy to begin a work in itself a fulfillment of the precept of the GOSPELS:—

"BE YE MERCIFUL AS YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS MERCIFUL—BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL—AS LONG AS YOU DID IT TO ONE OF THESE MY LEAST BRETHREN, YOU DID IT TO ME".

St. Anthony's Hospital was officially opened in December 1940 when His Grace assisted by many of the clergy blessed the hospital. So was fulfilled the great dream of His Grace, Archbishop P. J. Monahan, D.D. and likewise the precepts of the Gospels as quoted above.

Sisters, we of the Parish of Our Lady of Victories on our Golden Jubilee wish to thank you for coming to Esterhazy and for the great work that you have done in our midst. It cannot be paid in material things, but we ask God that you might share in all the blessings that will come to the parish on this the occasion of our jubilee. "God Bless you!"

PETER P. LOVASZ

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CHAPTER FIVE

The Fire



Father J. Burns

September 6th, 1942 saw the retirement of Rev. J. Pirot due to ill health. For the last 10 years of his active ministry, Father had laboured under severe handicap of poor health, a result of gas poisoning in the first world war, and only resigned when he knew he could no longer do active work in the parish. It was a sad day for the parish as he had laboured with great priestly zeal and built up the parish in every respect. Missionary life was not easy and the early part of Father's work called for many sacrifices which helped to bring on his early ill-health.

Rev. J. J. Burns from Sacred Heart Parish in Regina, where he had been administrator for Rev. J. C. Keohan who was on active service in England with the forces, was appointed by Most Reverend P. J. Monahan, D.D., to the duties as pastor.

September 20th, 1942 is long to be remembered due to the fact that our first church was completely destroyed by fire at 5 P.M. An old landmark in the history of the district has disappeared, but not forgotten.

His Grace came to Esterhazy and decided that we should build and the collection realized \$3172.20. An acre of land was purchased from the Gonczy Estate for \$650.00, this parcel of land adjoining the other 2 acres of the parish property to the south. The small wooden house on the new land was torn down and the land levelled so that the new church could face south towards the hospital. The new church would thus be built partly on old and new property.

The Community Hall was then rented at \$25.00 a month for Mass on Sundays until such time as we would be able to build a

basement church. We were delayed in this till the next year due to government priorities caused by World War II. The hall was used for 15 months and the parishes certainly thank the hall committee for the same.

Finally on December 8th, 1943, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the basement church was finished and on that day it was blessed by His Grace, Most Reverend P. J. Monahan. The completion of the upper structure had to wait till the end of the war. The building of the basement church brought out the unity that really existed in the parish as most of the work was done by voluntary work. The basement cement on the building, 120 feet by 40 feet, was poured in 2 days by two shifts of 50 men. The cost of the basement equipped was \$6557.03.

On June 9th, 1944, news came from Spokane, Washington, U.S.A., that Father Joseph Lucas had passed away from a heart attack. Father Lucas was the first native son of the parish to enter the priesthood; and after working in the Regina Dioceses for many years, had taken up parish work in the Dioceses of Vancouver.

On June 13th, 1944, His Grace, Most Reverend P. J. Monahan celebrated the High Mass in Our Lady of Victories Church, Esterhazy, Saskatchewan, with 25 brother priests in attendance. Interment was made in the parish cemetery in the clergy plot which is at the foot of the Cemetery Cross. "MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE. AMEN".



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CHAPTER SIX

The New Church

World war ended in 1945 and grateful prayers of rejoicing and thanksgiving were offered by the parishioners in the church. All were waiting anxiously for the return of their sons and daughters, some of whom had spent the full 5 years in active service in Europe and Africa. But here let us pause and offer an AVE AND A PATER for one of our sons, HARRY TOCHOR, who made the supreme sacrifice for us all. Although buried on foreign soil, he is not forgotten—"May his soul rest in peace. Amen". Thanks to all our young men and women who did a noble and worthy work and thus did their share to preserve freedom.

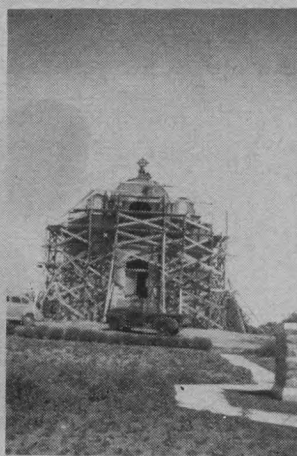
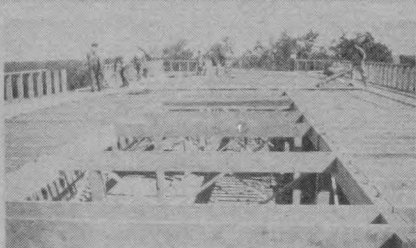
The trustees now applied for kiln-dried fir materials and by 1948 we headed the list for such material, but did not receive same till 1950. The contractor was Carl Larson of Esterhazy and with much voluntary labour from both the men and women of the parish, work was started. The building was to be of brick veneer and the blue prints for the same were drawn up by the architects, Van Egmond and Stan Storey, of Regina.

1953 ushered in a dream that had come true—the church was completed. It is a credit to the parishioners who laboured freely day after day and also contributed to the cost of the building. At this time of writing the history, the church is valued at \$72,000.00. It is the hope of the trustees that our jubilee year of 1956 will see the small debt that is left, fully paid.

The final touch was added to the church and that which is the most important to a Catholic, His Grace, Most Reverend M. C. O'Neill, D.D., of Regina assisted by Bishop Flanagan of Juneau, Alaska, U.S.A., blessed the church. The blessing took place on the octave of the Feast of The Immaculate Conception. December 15th, 1953.

Another day in the annals of the parish took place in July of 1954 when Father J. Pirot celebrated his Golden Jubilee to the priesthood in his 76th year. Father was born in Belgium and started there his studies for the priesthood. The last two years of theology were taken at the Grand Seminary in Quebec City with his ordination in 1904 at St. Boniface Cathedral in Manitoba. In 1905 Father was sent to Kapasvar as assistant priest and here he worked till his appointment as parish priest of Our Lady of Victories Parish in September of 1912.

Father Pirot will always be remembered in Central Saskatchewan where he worked all his priestly days by people of all faiths to whom he was a friend and often a spiritual father.



Building of the New Church

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CHAPTER SEVEN

"MAY HE REST IN PEACE. AMEN"

In 1955 the parish with the rest of the province celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the province and looked forward to the Golden Jubilee of the parish to follow the next year.

However sorrow darkened this year of rejoicing as Father Pirot became very ill and confined to his home. He was missed very much by the patients at St. Anthony's Hospital as he had faithfully visited them every supper hour for the past 13 years and brought consolation to them, all of which was greatly appreciated and certainly missed now that Father could no longer visit.

On September 19th, 1955, Father passed to his eternal reward and well earned rest after much suffering. Father died as he had lived, resigning his will to that of His Eternal Father's will. May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

His Grace, Most Reverend M. C. O'Neill, D.D., on September 22nd, laid Father Pirot to rest in the clergy plot in Our Lady of Victories Cemetery beside that of Father J. Lucas. Msgr. F. Gerein gave the funeral sermon in which he outlined the far reaching work of Father Pirot and in which he gave due praise to his faithful work for the church.

We now have arrived at our jubilee year and plans are being made to celebrate the Jubilee on June 11th, 1956. The tentative plans are for a communion Mass celebrated by His Grace, Most Reverend M. C. O'Neill at 8 in the morning with Solemn High Mass in the presence of His Grace at 10.30 A.M. A picnic will be held in the afternoon at which it is hoped that several dignitaries will say a few words on the occasion. In the evening a social will be held in the community hall.

At this point we wish to give you in name and in pictures some of our present and past parishioners.

The oldest man and lady living in the parish.



M. Andrew Tranovitch (92)



Mrs. Andrew Pittner (86)

Married couples who lived in the parish in 1906



Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Urzada



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The First married couple of the parish.



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CHAPTER NINE

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Year	Baptisms	Marriages	Deaths	Confirmations	Converts
1906	23	3	4	37	0
1907	30	2	3	0	0
1908	17	5	4	0	0
1909	15	3	3	0	0
1910	37	6	3	0	0
1911	7	0	0	0	0
1912	18	9	6	0	0
1913	22	8	2	0	0
1914	17	3	0	0	0
1915	20	8	2	0	0
1916	19	5	6	0	0
1917	13	4	0	0	0
1918	8	1	4	0	0
1919	13	2	2	0	1
1920	23	3	3	0	0
1921	22	10	6	68	0
1922	39	3	5	0	0
1923	23	5	7	0	0
1924	40	8	6	0	2
1925	31	3	6	0	1
1926	34	5	5	68	1
1927	32	8	7	0	1
1928	41	5	6	0	1
1929	29	12	3	0	2
1930	32	4	6	0	1
1931	33	6	4	102	0
1932	28	5	6	0	2
1933	26	6	3	0	2
1934	34	8	3	57	2
1935	26	6	4	0	2
1936	28	8	10	0	2
1937	19	4	4	0	1
1938	15	11	9	0	1
1939	27	8	4	56	1
1940	15	6	10	0	1
1941	19	16	10	0	5
1942	36	9	1	59	2
1943	34	11	7	0	2
1944	29	11	11	0	3
1945	42	9	8	81	3
1946	35	10	7	0	4
1947	23	8	5	0	0
1948	31	12	7	47	3

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1949	29	10	6	0	2
1950	24	10	7	0	0
1951	33	9	3	50	4
1952	33	8	8	0	1
1953	45	9	9	0	7
1954	39	3	10	44	1
1955	49	7	6	0	4
	1353	232	255	674	65

During this time there were 7 confirmations given in the case of necessity at St. Anthony's Hospital.



Esterhazy Hall—Sept. 1942 to Dec. 6th 1943

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CHAPTER TEN

PROFESSIONAL

Priesthood:—

Rev. Joseph Lucas (deceased).
Rev. J. J. Burns (Esterhazy)
Rev. John Toth S. J. (Campion College, Regina.)

Seminarians:—

Gordan Rushka (St. Joseph's, Edmonton).

Sisters:—

Sister Gertrudine, Saskatoon, Sask. (Katie Lucas)
Sister Regina, Pembroke, Ont. (Rose Toth)
Sister Mary of Victory, Pembroke. (Sheila Finnerty)
Sister Martinez, British Columbia (Mary Dorey)

Doctors:—

Dr. James Kacsmar, Davidson, Sask.

Nurses:—

Mrs. Roy Maber, Regina, Sask. (Joan Pesto)
Dianna Kacsmar, Saskatoon, Sask.
Stella Breus, Winnipeg, Man.
Blanche Schentag, Winnipeg, Man.
Mrs. Adrian Berg, Minneapolis, U.S.A. (Margaret Kacsmar.)
Maureena Dlouhy, Winnipeg, Man.

Degrees in Agriculture:—

Mr. Walter Kacsmar, Weyburn, Sask.
Mr. Henry Kacsmar, Toronto, Ont.

Degrees in Education:—

Mr. Frank Lucas, Normal School, Saskatoon, Sask.
Mr. Charles Frederick, Victoria, B.C.
Mr. James Hrabi, Lethbridge, Alta.

Bachelor of Commerce:—

Mr. Zultan Popp, Montreal, Quebec.

Law:—

Mr. Duncan MacKenzie—in last year at Saskatoon.

Pharmacy:—

Mr. John Dlouhy, Regina, Sask.

B.A. Degrees:—

Mr. Mark Toth, Saskatoon, Sask.

Radio and Sound Engineering:—

Mr. Frank Chomos, Esterhazy, Sask.

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OUR LADY OF VICTORIES CHURCH**

on the occasion of their
GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR

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Jim Baugh, Editor & Publisher

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Teachers:—

Mrs. John Pisak, Esterhazy, Sask. (Jean Ficek)
 Mrs. Adam Dorey, Calgary, Alta. (Rose Jesky)
 Paddy Finnerty, Esterhazy, Sask.
 Miss Rose Mary Lucas, Esterhazy, Sask.
 Mrs. William Sikora, Esterhazy, Sask. (Edith Lomenda)
 Stanley Lucas, Toronto, Ont.
 Jerry Lomenda, Winnipeg, Man.
 Ladimir Bernaski.
 Donald Bubnick, Esterhazy, Sask.
 Elsie Knourek, Corning, Sask.
 Agnes Knourek, Success, Sask. (Mrs. S. Zeleny)
 Mildred Knourek, Peoples, Sask. (Mrs. F. Pittner Jr.)
 Mrs. Caroline Fitzsimmons, Esterhazy, Sask.—(Caroline Tochor).
 Stephen Kacsma, Alberta.
 Miss Penelope Gillen, Moose Jaw, Sask.



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CHAPTER ELEVEN

ORGANIZATIONS

Altar Society:—

This society is the oldest in the parish and was organized from the beginning of the parish. Their work besides being spiritual is to look after the sanctuary and the rectory.

In the new church they completely furnished the sanctuary as: Marble Altar, drapes, large crucifix, all candle holders and the Stations of the Cross in the main body of the church. At present they are saving for the furnishing of the rectory which we hope to build in the near future.

C. W. L. :—

Although not organized in the parish, we have tried to do so; but on two occasions the representative from Moose Jaw was not able to be at our planned organization meetings due to the severe winter. We will try again this summer.

Knights of Columbus:—

In the fall of 1954 8 candidates were initiated at the council in Yorkton and with the 5 members already here, we started a sub-council. Last fall 10 more members were initiated at Yorkton. M. John C. Kacsma has been the Acting-Knight of the sub-division and William Novak, the bursar. They have started the ground work for a kiddies playground in Esterhazy and are doing a great deal of work on the Jubilee committees.

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine:—

We have our Charter for the confraternity in the parish. The main work has been to train teachers for summer school teaching, and to make every parent an active member by fulfilling their obligation to instruct their children by using the messenger series of magazines. The young people of the parish finished this year the Old Testament as to that which is a counter part of the doctrine of the New Law.

Hospital Auxiliary:—

It is made up of all the denominations in the community, but it must be mentioned as they have done great work for the hospital as to equipment.

Scouts, Cubs, Girl Guides and Brownies:—

For the past two years these organizations have made initial progress. Rev. J. J. Burns, Wilfred Plosz and Lorne Kacsma have been the leaders of the Scouts and Cubs. Miss Marion Fedorski and Mrs. Scott Boreen have been the Girl Guides leaders while Miss Majorie Fick and Miss Twardsic have been with the Brownies.

D. A. MacKENZIE

BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY PUBLIC

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D. A. MacKenzie, LL.B. — J. J. Flynn LL.B.

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ESTERHAZY, SASK.



Knights of Columbus



Mr. George Patrick—Road conditions in April of 1956—Kolon Road

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